

[1883]

Not in PEEL

CIRCULAR

FROM

BOARD OF TRADE, WINNIPEG.

The President brought under the notice of the Board, a letter which he had received from the Board of Trade in Montreal, enclosing copies of some letters which had appeared in English newspapers, containing serious attacks upon Manitoba and the North West, as regards its climate and adaptability for agricultural operations, and also stating in effect that Winnipeg was a failure, and that the accounts which had been circulated as to its progress were baseless and untrue—that it had, in fact, collapsed, and that its doom was sealed, &c., &c.

The President stated that the letters forwarded to him from the Board of Trade in Montreal were only samples of what had for several weeks been appearing in certain newspapers in London—all apparently arising from some singular concert of action—and intended to depreciate the North West parts of Canada as a field for emigration from Great Britain and Ireland.

The object of these various newspaper articles and letters appeared to be two-fold—the one to “bear” certain securities for purposes of stock-jobbing speculation, and the other to aid certain railway interests in Canada, and the United States, to injure the prospects of the Canadian Pacific Railway and to prevent its completing financial arrangements in the money markets of Europe. This last object is made unmistakeably plain in a late article which appeared in the *Money Market Review* of London, England.

The President further stated, that he had thought this whole matter so important that he had called the Board of Trade of the City of Winnipeg together, in order that the attacks made upon the country as a whole, and upon Winnipeg in particular, might be fully considered, and such a statement of facts made public, as would shew the utter falsity of the attacks that had been made.

The President then submitted the following statement, which had been prepared by the Council of the Board as a reply to the statements which had been so industriously circulated in England by parties who had special objects to serve in doing so—as follows :

The assertion that the climate is too severe for existence or comfort is completely dispelled by the fact that year after year increasing numbers of people come into the country and rapidly become prosperous and contented residents and agricultural settlers. In fact,

THE CLIMATE

is about the same as that of the northern portions of Dakota and Minnesota, and in which, during the last twenty years, between one and two millions of people have settled, being attracted thereto by the great fertility of the soil.

The isothermal line, in which the great wheat-producing belt of this continent lies, passing through Minnesota and Dakota, advances in a north-westerly direction through Manitoba, and beyond it in the direction of the Peace River valley, upwards of 1200 miles west of Winnipeg, and throughout which immense distance, it is now established, lies the greatest extent of wheat lands, largely yet untilled, and which all authorities agree, must become the great grain yielding territory of the continent of North America.

Taking advantage of this remarkable provision of nature, Manitoba, which five years ago had but a few sparse settlements on the borders of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, has, by the rapid growth of population, been compelled to double the extent of its area, until it now reaches, in ever-increasing continuous settlements of people, engaged in successful farming operations, a distance of two hundred miles west of the Red River, on which Winnipeg is situated, and stretching beyond the western confines of the Province of Manitoba. Population is now pouring along the lines of railway in operation or in course of construction, and has already reached the shores of the two branches of the great Saskatchewan river. Again, beyond that to the westward, settlers are still pressing onward, and are peopling and stocking with herds of cattle the great ranche lands on the rich plains to the eastward of the Rocky mountains, and where the warm chinook winds of the Pacific ocean come through the depressions in the mountains and by their warmth allow the vast herds which feed upon the rich grasses to remain out during the months of winter, without any necessity for providing shelter for them.

It is in such a country that already is to be found a large, prosperous, and contented agricultural population, whose numbers are increasing year after year in an ever increasing ratio—a population which finds no such fault with the climate as is so untruthfully depicted by "bears" who want to depress the price of stocks which they have sold but cannot deliver except at a loss, and by rival railway undertakings, which seek to injure a great national undertaking—the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The best proof of the success which this rapidly growing agricultural community is unquestionably achieving is to be found in the wonderful growth and rapid strides which are being made by the City of Winnipeg, whose prosperity is dependent solely upon the success of the agriculturalists who are farming to the westward. The success of the one makes the success of the other. Winnipeg progresses by unexampled "leaps and bounds," because the country which supports it is doing the same—the one depends upon the other—and therefore the facts as regards the wonderful growth of

Winnipeg are the most irrefragable proofs of the prosperity and constant increase of the agricultural population throughout the country west of it.

What, then, are the facts as regards Winnipeg, which, according to some of the letters referred to has "collapsed," and "whose doom is sealed"?

THE POPULATION OF WINNIPEG

in 1872 was 1,000; in 1875 it was 3,000; in 1879, 7,000, and in 1882, 25,000. Such a rate of increase was never approached before in Canada, and has never been excelled in the wonderful growth of cities in the United States.

The value of the assessed property in the City shews equally wonderful strides:

In 1875 it was	\$ 2,635,000.
" 1879 "	3,451,000.
" 1881 "	9,000,000.
" 1882 "	30,000,000.

The extent of buildings erected in 1882 was equally wonderful. They aggregated a total of 1368, and cost no less than upwards of \$5,000,000 in one year.

The increase in the trade of the city is shown in the returns of the Custom House. In 1881 the dutiable goods imported from England and the United States reached a total value of \$2,847,000, and in 1882 they amounted to \$8,222,000, being an increase of \$5,385,000, or nearly 200 per cent. in one year.

THE DUTIES COLLECTED

In 1872 amounted to	\$ 47,840.
" 1875 "	171,421.
" 1879 "	265,828.
" 1881 "	651,892.
" 1882 "	1,587,327.

The duties in 1881 were as above, \$651,892, and in 1882 they were \$1,587,317, an increase of \$935,535 for the year, or about 150 per cent.

The revenue from Customs in the Port of Winnipeg places it third on the list for the whole of Canada, it being only exceeded by the receipts at Montreal and Toronto.

Export trade has not yet commenced, and yet the trade carried on by the merchants of Winnipeg is already an aggregate of from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 in a year.

The total amount of

POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS

issued in Winnipeg during the year 1882 amounted to a total of \$650,000, being largely remittances sent by people in Manitoba and the North-West to their friends in Canada and Great Britain. That large amount is three times as great as the sums issued in either of the Cities of Montreal or Toronto, and places Winnipeg at the head of the offices throughout Canada issuing Post Office money orders.

Winnipeg has now branches of no less than eight of the chartered banks of Canada, viz: Bank of Montreal, Merchants, Ottawa, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Union Bank of Lower Canada, Federal and Imperial, and branches

of some of these banks have also lately been established in Emerson, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Regina.

There have already been established in Winnipeg manufactories of agricultural implements, iron (including castings and machine work of all descriptions), barb wire, furniture, cabinet works, breweries and distilleries, biscuit factory, saw mills with planing, grooving, and other machinery, and brick yards, where upwards of 20,000,000 of bricks were made last year. There are also three flouring mills with the latest and most approved description of machinery capable of manufacturing upwards of 1000 barrels of flour a day.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The main street of the City for a distance of two miles is lighted by the electric light. There is a street railway running the entire length of the City. Gas works and water works are already in existence, and a considerable number of miles of additional mains for both is being laid down every year. A complete system of drainage is being provided for at the cost of the Municipality. One hundred miles of telephone wire already exist, and nearly 300 instruments are now at work upon it.

There are three bridges spanning the Red and Assiniboine rivers, for the carrying of different lines of railway from the city to various parts of the country; and for purposes of ordinary traffic three other bridges have also been built across the same rivers.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

In the City there are already 12 churches of various denominations, with an aggregate seating capacity for about 12,000 persons, and yet all are so crowded that urgent necessity exists for increased accommodation.

The City has erected, at a cost of \$100,000, three public schools where an excellent education can be obtained. These schools have at present an aggregate number of 31 teachers. The schools are supported by a rate levied upon the assessed value of property in the city.

For higher education there is the University of Manitoba, with which is affiliated three colleges, viz:—St. John's College (Church of England), St. Boniface College (Roman Catholic), Manitoba College (Presbyterian).

The University of Manitoba was founded in 1877, the Chancellor being the Anglican Bishop of Rupert's Land, and the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Royal, M.P., of St. Boniface.

St. John's College has contracted at a cost of about \$50,000 for the erection of a wing of its ultimate building. When its wing is ready for occupation, the present building will be added to the capacity of the boys' school, which cannot at present accommodate all the candidates for admission.

St. Boniface College has lately erected a new and large brick building to meet the increased demands making upon it.

Manitoba College has just completed, at a cost of about \$40,000, a wing of the building which it will ultimately occupy.

A faculty of theology is attached to both St. John's and Manitoba Colleges. St. John's has also a Ladies' College School in a separate building

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and locality with a branch carried on in the school-room attached to Holy Trinity Church. The Ladies' College is filled to its utmost capacity.

RAILWAY LINES.

There are about 1,300 miles of railway already constructed in Manitoba and the North-West. Of that extent about 1,000 miles is a continuous railway, extending from Thunder Bay on Lake Superior to a point about 50 miles east of the Saskatchewan River. This main line of railway passes through Winnipeg, where it is joined by that part of the Pacific Railway which connects with the American system of railways at the boundary. Winnipeg is thus the point of junction upon which two streams of traffic converge to and from the great and rapidly growing agricultural territory to the west of it.

Winnipeg, with already 500 miles of railway to the east of it and 800 miles west of it passing through the fertile wheat belt of this continent, and which will be extended this year 300 miles further west, to the base of the Rocky Mountains, is the gateway through which the vast traffic of this rapidly growing country must pass. This fact alone will make her progress continue by further such leaps and bounds as the last three or four years has exhibited. It is now demonstrated beyond dispute that the people who come to this country find a climate which has

NONE OF THE TERRORS

which some of the newspaper writers try to depict, that it has a soil of unexampled fertility, and that those who do come, by reasonable activity and prudence, will rapidly become the owners in fee of the property on which they reside, free from all difficulties and obligations of leases, free from the payment of rent, and subject only to very moderate taxation.

Under these circumstances the country will continue to grow and its population to increase in the same way that has been the case in the States to the south.

And as the country grows, so will the City of Winnipeg continue to advance; the success of one inevitably producing a corresponding success and growth of the other.

JOSEPH MULHOLLAND, President.

L. M. LEWIS, Secretary.

Winnipeg, 16th January, 1883.